

RE: 00009-22 - Key Points on Impacts to Critical Infrastructure, Demonstrations Across Canada - 13 Feb 2022 17:00 EST

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Date: Sun, 13 Feb 2022 22:23:05 +0000

Apology for font and typo glitch in previous email. Please use this version.

Sent on behalf of Deryck Trehearne, DG GOC

Colleagues,

New information in bold as of 17:00 EST, 13 Feb. Please ensure proper distribution of the KPs to officials with need-to-know.

BLUF

- On 13 Feb, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) continues to gain control of the blockaded area near the Ambassador Bridge with arrests being made and vehicles being towed. Open sources indicate that the Windsor Police hope to reopen the Ambassador Bridge and the roadway leading to it later today should conditions permit. [Link](#)
- Open sources indicate that the City of Ottawa has come to an agreement with several protest leaders that could lead to approx. 70 per cent of trucks and cars leave the residential areas in the downtown core over the next 24 hours and possibly relocate to the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway. [Link](#)
- As per ITAC: Individuals seeking to participate in a legitimate protest are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism.
- For information on [planned traffic routes, road closures and location of other demonstrations nationally](#).

IMPACTED AREAS: (Details on Demonstrations in affected cities/regions)

Ottawa, ON:

- Approx. 50-100 people on Parliament Hill and 1,000 people on surrounding streets. When safe to do so, police resources continue to intervene when protesters are seen bringing material support into the red zone. (as of 14:20 13 Feb).
 - Counter-protesters block convoy vehicles on Ottawa streets. [Link](#)

- Open sources indicate that the City of Ottawa has come to an agreement with several leaders of ongoing demonstrations that could lead to approx. 70 per cent of trucks and cars leave residential areas in the downtown core over the next 24 hours and possibly relocate to the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway. [Link](#)
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill until 28 Feb.

Windsor, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, police enforcement actions continue with reports of arrests being made and vehicles towed. Open sources indicate that the Windsor Police hope to reopen the Ambassador Bridge and the roadway leading to it later today should conditions permit. [Link](#)
 - Police break up remaining protest at Windsor's Ambassador Bridge, make 12 arrests. [Link](#)
- NOTAM extended to 14 Feb for airspace restrictions over the protest area.

Sarnia, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, the Blue Water Bridge remains open in both directions. Sarnia POE remains open with no delays reported.

Fort Erie, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, Fort Erie POE is open for commercial and traveller traffic, with only minor delays reported by CBSA.

Cornwall, ON:

- As of 13 Feb, the Cornwall POE remains open.

Emerson, MB:

- As of 13 Feb, the blockade remains north of the POE. Some traveler traffic is able to enter Canada but commercial and other traffic is rerouted to adjacent POEs. RCMP will continue letting livestock vehicles through.

Coutts (Port of Entry):

- All services have been temporarily suspended at Coutts POE as of 14:00 EST 12 Feb, as protesters continue to block the highway leading to the POE. Commercial and traveler traffic is crossing at nearby POEs.
- NOTAMs are in effect over Milk River and Coutts until 16 Feb.

Toronto, ON:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- NOTAM is in effect for airspace restrictions over Queen's Park in Toronto until 13 Feb.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Winnipeg, MB:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- NOTAM is in effect restricting airspace over the protest in Winnipeg until 14 Feb.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Regina, SK and Regway POE:

- No major impacts are reported.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Fredericton, NB:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
 - Smaller crowd gathers for colder day 3 of Fredericton protest. [Link](#)
- NOTAM extended to 14 Feb for airspace restrictions over the protest area.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Halifax, NS:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Vancouver, BC and Metro area:

- As of 13 Feb, no delays reported at Pacific POE by CBSA. On 12 Feb, several vehicles including a military-style vehicle broke through an RCMP barricade in south Surrey, BC, on their way to the Pacific Hwy POE.
 - Protesters force highway closure at Canada-US border in Surrey as rallies enter 3rd weekend. [Link](#)
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

Montreal, QC:

- No major impacts reported from protest activity.
- No further reporting unless the situation evolves.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:

IMVE:

- As per ITAC:

- Individuals seeking to participate in a legitimate protest are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism.
- The most likely IMVE-related scenario involves an individual or small group using readily available weapons and resources such as knives, firearms, homemade explosives and vehicles in public areas against soft targets, including opposition groups or members of the general public.
- The increase in violent online rhetoric targeting uniformed personnel is likely not indicative of increased intent by IMVE actors to conduct planned, directed attacks against members of law enforcement. Uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted because of their accessibility in the course of their duties. The terrorism threat to uniformed personnel remains MEDIUM.
- IMVE adherents may feel empowered by the level of disorder resulting from the protests. This could lead to individuals vulnerable to extremist messaging to commit isolated acts of violence.

International:

- Brussels braces for 'freedom convoy' protesting coronavirus restrictions. [Link](#)
- US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has increased its presence in Los Angeles ahead of Super Bowl LVI, with over 500 DHS personnel providing ground, air, and maritime support. A lead field coordinator and EOC are in place.

Maritime/CCG:

- As of 13 Feb, there is nothing of significance to report and risk levels continue to be low for protests on the water and disruption to marine traffic and port activities.
- In Atlantic Canada, MSOC/Transport Canada confirmed there is no intelligence to suggest any planned protest activity for near future.
 - Furthermore, it does not appear that the disruption around the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie is causing an impact in traffic delays, nor is it creating a spill-over to the Queenston-Lewiston POE.
- Disruptions on the Ambassador Bridge are not affecting operations at the nearby Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry (DWTF) at this time.
- All 3 MSOCs will continue to monitor for vessel traffic anomalies and other reports and information on maritime activities.

Foreign Interference:

- RRM Canada has not observed any significant indicators of foreign state-linked interference as it relates to the "Truckers Convoy".
- Similar demonstrations have emerged across various democratic states inspired by the Ottawa demonstrations with indications of more planned in places like the US, today (Super Bowl) and in the weeks to come.

- A fake image of snipers at the Ambassador Bridge circulated on Twitter for a short time before being debunked. The image was originally from an unrelated context in 2013. This discussion overall has received limited engagement on Twitter.
- RRM Canada notes that a significant proportion of content and engagement online has been driven by organic activity by average users and citizens.

Financing:

- Crowdfunding sites are not a regulated business sector under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA). However, should these sites transact with or through [businesses](#) that are subject to the Act, such as financial institutions, suspicious transactions may be reported.
- No spike in suspicious transaction reporting amid trucker convoy protests: FINTRAC. [Link](#)
- TD Bank freezes accounts that received money for Canada protests. [Link](#)

Policing Issues of Note:

- RCMP is assisting in various impacted areas across the country and is focused on areas where enforcement or the risk of escalation is most acute. RCMP does not hold contracts with tow companies nor can they be compelled to assist in removing vehicles at protest sites.

CSIS ~~Irrelevant~~

- No concerns at this time.

Social Media Analysis:

- A video has been circulating on social media of a roadside interaction between an OPP officer and occupants of a passenger vehicle who were stopped on their way to protest in Ottawa. [Link](#)
- Social media posts have been circulating showing photos of a counter protest on 13 Feb at intersection of Bank and Riverside in Ottawa. Counter protesters are shown blocking protester vehicles. [Link](#)

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: (Derived from information available on open sources)

- The majority of the events have been peaceful.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- There is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.

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